

# THE WEINSTEIN REPORT

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## District One *Twenty*<sup>20</sup>*Seventeen*<sub>17</sub> SPECIAL EDITION Year in Review

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## Exploring Economic Opportunity in Howard County

In September, I filed [CR 119-2017](#) to establish the Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Task Force. This group is dedicated to exploring ways to create as many pathways to economic prosperity as possible for individuals and businesses in Howard County. I believe the task force's work will result in a more coordinated and comprehensive approach to expanding the economic environment for everyone in the County. This 13-member task force is currently studying a range of topics including workforce support, economic development, education, housing, and transportation.

They will submit a report to the County Council and County Executive in December 2018. Their report will serve as a blueprint for legislation, policies, and programs at the start of the new term for the County Council and County Executive.

You can follow the Task Force work by watching proceedings, submitting testimony, and reviewing the information they're gathering at <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/EOPTaskForce>.



## EC Flood Anniversary and Planning for the Future

July 30, 2017 marked the one-year anniversary of historic Ellicott City's devastating flood. As a result of the grit and determination of the residents, businesses and property owners, nearly all of the buildings that were damaged by the flood have been repaired and over 90% of businesses reopened. The flood was horrific, but the dedication and spirit of the businesses on Main Street to reopen and return better than before is something that inspires me every time I walk up and down the street. I would also like to thank the broader Howard County community and people around the region for supporting and patronizing the businesses, which contributed to an amazing holiday season and renewed vibrancy in Ellicott City. Toward the end of 2017, the County took over operating the B&O Museum and visits are up approximately 200% compared to the same period in 2016.

In 2017, the County shifted out of recovery mode and into long-term planning for historic Ellicott City and the watershed. On May 31st, the County launched its master plan process to help define a comprehensive community-driven vision for rebuilding a stronger and more resilient Ellicott City. The plan will take a fresh and creative look at potential long-term solutions and strategies and will also incorporate a watershed plan that considers Ellicott City's unique topography, hydrology, road network, and mill town heritage. The County hosted three master plan workshops during the summer and fall to elicit community feedback for the master plan as the team develops the plan.



## Pushing for High School 13

Throughout 2017, I continued to push for expediting the construction of High School 13 in the eastern part of the county, an effort I have supported since even before being elected. I first raised this issue to the former Superintendent and the Board of Education at the Council's quarterly joint meeting in October 2015. A new urgency for a site and school began when the new Superintendent, Dr. Michael Martirano arrived. At that time, additional attention was given to finding locations in Elkridge.

In October, I joined a contingent of Howard County officials to meet with the Maryland Board of Public Works in Annapolis. Along with my colleagues in Howard County Government, HCPSS staff, and Board of Education members we advocated for State funding to accelerate the construction of High School 13, as well as other important capital projects. I conveyed the community's urgent need for another school to the

Governor, Comptroller and State Treasurer at this meeting. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues, the Board of Education, HCPSS, and the County Executive to move forward as quickly and efficiently as possible to build High School 13 to open as soon as practical.



## Sparking ElkrIDGE Renewal

There has been a lot of activity throughout 2017 in ElkrIDGE. Construction crews were hard at work this year building a new library, 50+ center, and fire station. All are set to be completed in early 2018. With the Guinness Brewery and Tap House opening just over the County line, I have worked closely with District 1 in Baltimore County on how we can improve our shared Route 1 and Patapsco Valley areas. Early in 2017, I created the ElkrIDGE Renewal Group to identify ways to capitalize on all the great things taking place in the area such as the Guinness opening and the potential future regional trails in the area. Participants in this group includes ElkrIDGE community groups, business owners, County departments, the Economic Development Authority, and other key stakeholders.

Additionally, I drafted an amendment to CB 33-2017 that expands the geographic area of the Route 1 tax credit to include the ElkrIDGE Main Street area in order to further boost renewal in the area.

I have requested the County to include funding in the FY2019 budget to support this effort.



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## BWI Roundtable Update

The D1 Team and my colleagues on the Council have continued to press the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to address the untenable situation of increased flight traffic noise over portions of eastern Howard County. I sponsored, along with Councilman Calvin Ball, and the Council passed, CB8-2017 last February which authorized the County Office of Law to take legal action against the FAA.

Following this action and at our insistence (starting in July 2016) and pressure from the community, the FAA established a Community Roundtable made up of representatives from areas in central Maryland who are also impacted by the changes in flight paths and the resulting noise. My Special Assistant, Gary Smith represents the Council on the Roundtable and participates in meetings that are open to the public every month.

The Roundtable is currently investigating legislative options that can be taken on the State and Federal levels to compel the FAA to act. I was disappointed that the State was slow to add their voices to threaten legal action, but they are finally moving forward with an investigation of the viability of a lawsuit. The meeting minutes and actions taken by the Roundtable can be found at the following link:

<http://maacommunityrelations.com/content/anznoi-seupdate/dcroundtable.php>



## Improving Social Service Delivery in Howard County



The idea of a collaborative space for various nonprofits to provide their services in a cooperative and convenient way has been a topic of discussion for a long time. The Council and Executive worked to provide funding for a new, consolidated nonprofit center to fulfill the dream for this project. This past July, this idea came to fruition as we celebrated the grand opening of the [Nonprofit Collaborative](#). The Collaborative now houses 14 organizations including Association of Community Services, Bridges to Housing Stability, Grassroots Crisis Intervention, Hope Works, Howard County Autism Society, Howard County Housing Commission, Howard Eco Works, United Way of Central Maryland, and others.



I look forward to supporting this space for community resources that are easily accessible and convenient for the community to utilize.

## Really Smart 5th Graders

In May and June, my District Aide Jessie Keller, Special Assistant Gary Smith, and I participated as judges for the Simulated Congressional Hearings in eight elementary schools throughout District 1. Participating in this program is one of my favorite activities each year.

I have participated in over 50 hearings over the past several years. For those not familiar with the program, every 5th grade student in the County works in groups to study the United States Constitution and the history surrounding the document. Each group presents their findings to a panel of “judges” in a hearing-styled forum. No matter how many hearings I attend, I leave each school feeling inspired by the work, words, and enthusiasm the 5th graders demonstrate throughout the day.

I encourage everyone to consider volunteering to support this great event that bolsters our democracy. You can sign up to serve as a judge here: <http://sch.hcpss.org/messages/sign-serve-2018-judge>



## Passing a Sound & Balanced Budget for FY2018

Working with my Council colleagues and the County Executive, we were able to produce a budget for Fiscal Year 2018 (which started July 1, 2017 and ends June 30, 2018) that reflects our priorities and allows for the continued high-quality of life in Howard County.

The process included over 15 formal meetings over three months, including nearly 100 hours of testimony and deliberation. Throughout the process, I sought to make sure funding for several critical projects remain in the Capital Budget, including flood mitigation projects for Main Street Ellicott City, the fire station, library and 50+ center in Elkridge, key sidewalk improvements, and the creation of the Community Resources Campus.

We'll be starting the FY2019 process in another month or two.

For more information on the FY2018 budget, click [here](#)

To read more about these projects, click [here](#)

Click [here](#) to read full version of D1-related Budget Recap



### Recap FY 2018

The information below outlines a few District 1-related priorities included in the FY2018 budget.

#### The Council approved a \$378M Capital Budget for FY18

- 1.8 million for flood remediation projects for Main Street Ellicott City and Valley Mede
  - D1165: 1.1 million for flood mitigation & stormwater projects
  - D1157: Saint John's Lane Drainage Project- Dado Ct amendment
- \$200K for Ellicott City parking improvements (planning, design and implementation)
- Funding to build the new Circuit Courthouse- P3 project (\$105M from the County)
- Money to finish new Elkridge fire station (\$750K in FY18)
- Money to finish new Elkridge Library & 50+ Center (This project is now fully funded at \$30.1M)
- K5066: Initial funding for implementation of Bike Howard Plan (the County funded \$600K and the total FY18 appropriation from the County and other sources is \$731K)
- \$4.5M for road resurfacing to continue progress on the County backlog; an increase over the Executive's initial proposed budget
- Funding for sidewalk improvement projects
  - K5065: Doncaster Dr sidewalk (\$50K)
  - K5036: Routine Sidewalk and Extensions project. Sites include:
    - Montgomery Rd at Lynn Ln
    - Elberta Dr at South Haven Dr
  - The County also set aside additional funds to evaluate several additional sites in FY18
- Creation of the Community Resources Campus, including the Non-Profit Collaborative which co-locates in Columbia various county departments, the state Department of Social Services and many nonprofits.

## Summary of Council Legislation Introduced/Co-Sponsored by Jon Weinstein

Council Bill Number	Summary
<a href="#">CB 7-2017</a>	Amending the Livable Homes Tax Credit in to expand the features eligible to receive the tax credit
<a href="#">CB 8-2017</a> (sponsored)	Authorizing the Howard County Office of Law to sue the FAA
<a href="#">CB 21-2017</a> (co-sponsored)	Expands the Police Department's ability to ensure that massage parlors are licensed by the state and are running legal operations to prevent human trafficking
<a href="#">CB 33-2017</a>	Amending the County code to continue the Route 1 Tax Credit. I amended the bill to extend the tax credit area to include Main Street Elkridge
<a href="#">CB 69-2017</a> (co-sponsored)	Establishing a tax credit for real property damaged by a natural disaster
<a href="#">CB 70-2017</a> (co-sponsored)	Establishing a personal property tax exemption for businesses in the historic district or a national register district
<a href="#">CR 119-2017</a> (sponsored)	Establishing an Economic Opportunity and Prosperity task force
<a href="#">TAO 1-2017</a>	Transferring \$550,000 for stream restoration work